condensation, but not very often because I was at home with the baby," she says. "But I remember George Harrison coming around to our house a couple of times to keep me company when the Beatles weren't playing because he knew I was left out. That was nice of him."

Although at £25 a week Mal was being paid slightly more than he had at the Post Office money was tight and would remain so. Brian Epstein, the Beatles' manager, a young man always fussy about appearances, insisted that Mal wear suits instead of jeans, probably making Mal the first and last road manager to do so, but didn't offer to pay for them. Mal didn't complain.

"I was bitter about it, and would tell Mal to ask for a rise, but he never did. When the Beatles played in Paris, Mal was told that he could take me and the baby with him. It was very nice, but we were repaying Epstein the cost of our fares and hotel for months."

The Beatles, who probably never even knew, were seen by the world then as four innocent young boys from Liverpool, but that was just an image. While in Paris they reached the top of the US charts for the first time and celebrated when one of their entourage organised a lesbian show in their rooms, all duly, but tastefully, noted in Mal's diary for 1964.

There were always girls around the Beatles, and the temptations for Mal must have been enormous. But Lil believes he resisted them for years. "The Beatles used to tell me that they couldn't understand how Gary was ever conceived, because Mal never bothered with girls on the road."

But, though he may at first have been faithful to her in the physical sense, as the Beatles' fame became worldwide Lil and their two children got less and less of his attention.

"I felt left behind. It wasn't as though Mal was having an affair with a woman, but four affairs with the Beatles. And four fellas can be worse than one woman. He was always at their beck and call. He was a nice fella to have around, so much so that it could provoke little jealousies within the band. When I met Yoko years after Mal died she said John had told her he'd been very jealous at one point of Mal's relationship with Paul."

Naturally Mal enjoyed the glamour of being at the Beatles' side. When they made movies he had small roles in them (he was the guy who keeps swimming in *Help!),* and when they met famous people like Muhammad Ali he met them, too. In Hollywood when they finally visited